

Oklahoma Teacher of the Year Addresses SWOSU Student Teachers

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Stephanie Canada (middle), Oklahoma's 2007-08 Teacher of the Year, was among the participants at the recent Student Teacher Return Day at SWOSU. Pictured with Canada are (from left): Dr. Dennis Gentry, chairman, Department of Education; Dr. Vicki Hatton, chair, Department of Kinesiology; Dr. Chad Kinder, associate dean, School of Behavioral Sciences and Education; John Harris, director of human resources, Tulsa Public Schools; Vicky Gilliland, coordinator of field experiences; and Evette Meliza, assistant professor, Department of Education.

Student Teacher Return Day was recently held on the Southwestern Oklahoma State University campus in Weatherford and among the speakers that the SWOSU student teachers heard was Oklahoma's 2007-08 Teacher of the Year Stephanie Canada.

Canada gave words of encouragement and inspiration to the 44 SWOSU student teachers, who are currently on assignment across the state of Oklahoma. Student Teacher Return Day is an event that happens each semester and is arranged by the SWOSU Department of Education. .

"It is an opportunity for student teachers to come back on campus and receive extra training and information they will take with them when entering the career field after graduation," said Vicky Gilliland, coordinator of field experiences for the department.

Throughout the day, speakers from all across the state shared with students on various topics concerning the field of education. Morning sessions included personal safety training by Dr. Sam Lackey and Gene Foust, who teach personal safety courses at SWOSU. Another speaker included John Harris, director of human resources for Tulsa Public Schools. He gave valuable tips on how to land a teaching job. Students also took part in workshops and career development activities to finish out the day.